



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

School Board opts for automatic renewal of Van Tassel contract

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education decided to take no action on a part of School Supt. Van Tassel's rolling contract that automatically gives him another year on the job if the board doesn't take action.

As of April 1, Supt. Van Tassel will automatically have his position confirmed for the 2014-15 school year, in addition to the 2013-14 year. The superintendent position is renewed two years in advance.

Board Treasurer Sherry Frazier pointed out that Van Tassel is not taking a salary cut like the teachers are being asked to take and, actually, he is getting an increase.

His contract calls for \$137,000 for this school year, plus a \$2,000 raise to \$139,000 as of July 1.

Board President Brent Mikulski said Van Tassel said he would take a cut.

Van Tassel confirmed that he would be willing to make a voluntary cut in his salary after the teachers' salary is determined.

Trustee Scott Russell said if the board does nothing that evening, the contract would roll over. If someone on the board changes his or her mind and wants to discuss the contract, that person could get a second person to ask for a special meeting before April 1 and they could meet and discuss.

Russell praised Van Tassel for "leadership by example".

An item on the agenda for approval of the Van Buren Education Association teachers' union contract was removed by President Mikulski at the beginning of the meeting.

Mikulski and Van Tassel explained that the contract was not ready for a board vote because it needed to be ratified by the teachers and it failed in the teachers' vote earlier Monday.

The board planned to discuss the contract negotiations in closed session at the end of the meeting, as allowed under the Open Meetings Act.

The board also approved spending some of the bond funds left over from the building of Belleville High School. They approved:

- \$60,468 for seven additional pin-on microphone systems for BHS teachers, so that every classroom (except gym) will have enhanced sound. The cost was locked in by a 2009 bid, said Paul Wills of Plante Moran CRESA, who made the proposal to the board;

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Belleville City Council approves police contract with no raises

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The City of Belleville and its Police Department union have been negotiating for many, many months on the contract that expired June 30, 2011.

Cpl. Todd Schrecengost, president of the union, said Sunday that the union had been hoping to get some pay raises, but it didn't happen.

However, the recently approved agreement does have a wage reopener effective July 1, 2014. Belleville's Police Officers Association of Michigan local has seven members.

The city council considered the contract in closed session a few weeks ago and turned it down, Schrecengost said. Then, there were more negotiations and at the end of the March 18 meeting, following another closed-door session, the council approved the contract.

The four-year contract runs from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015.

Schrecengost said there was a lot of heavy negotiation on the additions to the procedures for promotion to sergeant and establishing an eligibility list.

(continued on page 3)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Reg Ion of Van Buren Township was among the hundreds of shoppers getting bargains at Saturday's furniture and equipment sale by Van Buren Public Schools at Haggerty Elementary School. Ion, who retired as head custodian of the schools, got a globe and set of carving knives, along with other treasures. A second sale is being planned in May, since the district warehouse was stuffed to the top with items from the old high school and other sites. Although Saturday's sale was first promoted as being to offer Elwell Elementary School items to the public, since Elwell was being demolished, little from Elwell was at Saturday's sale. In fact, on Friday, the day before the sale, Owen officials took 160 student desks from the Haggerty sale area for use in their school.



Independent photo by James Otzman

The Easter Bunny appeared from around the corner of the Parks and Recreation building in Graham Park on Saturday and the children in the park ran to greet him. It was a cold, windy day, but the children crowded around the Bunny and had a great time.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board

(continued from page 1)

- \$99,788.74 for tables, umbrellas, fences and landscaping (including some relocation of new trees) for the Commons area outdoor patio and the outside courtyard next to the auditorium. The patio was included in the original design, but not constructed until the availability of funds for amenities was determined. Wills said Wayne County, state parks, and the Metro Park system also were using the tables selected for BHS; and

- \$148,587 to Marshall Music Company (high bidder) for musical instruments, including eight trumpets, six tubas, six flutes, five Bb clarinets, five trombones, four bassoons, four alto saxophones, three oboes, and one each of a rosewood marimba and 2.5 pro bells with rolling stand. Some of the current instruments are more than 40 years old.

Wills also reported that the Sinking Fund is financing extra parking at Rawsonville and Edgemont schools, a new roof at Owen (with bids ready to come in), glass and glazing at various schools, along with security entrances at schools.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Approved the April 8 employment termination of teacher Stephanie Stojanovski of McBride after 13 years of service, for personal reasons;

- Heard presentations from the principals of Owen Intermediate and Belleville High School, outlining their programs;

- Approved the minutes of the March 13 open session, following a closed-door disciplinary hearing, that showed a vote of 6-1 (Frazier voting no) that expelled a student for an unstated infraction;

- Heard Frazier ask questions about four different checks written to pay for various items and got answers. She was advised by Secretary Kevin English that it would give employees more time to get answers to her questions if she would ask before the meeting, but she insisted it was her right to ask the questions. She questioned the \$500 per day paid to Carnegie Math consultant Nicole Crockett and was told that was for 10.5 days per month; and

- Heard parent Shannon Ackron speak of her many concerns about her children's education. She had sent emails to board members after not being satisfied with her treatment after following the chain of command. Ackron was especially irritated with comments from teachers who said there was "a paper shortage in the district" and one couldn't run off her ill high school son's homework because of the paper problem, which caused him to be marked down in class. She also wanted to know how much was lost in the furniture and equipment destroyed when the old BHS was demolished. She tried to get the information with a Freedom of Information Act request,

but was told there were no documents on that. She listed other problems and called school leadership "despicable". She said that Board Vice President Martha Toth sent her an email saying she had "crossed a line" by saying leadership was despicable. President Mikulski asked Ackron to give Van Tassel and the staff time to collect information she wanted, adding her email was lengthy and they are working on it. "It's unfortunate we have to allow these kinds of issues to fester with parents," said Frazier, adding that had Van Tassel addressed the problem in the first place, it wouldn't have escalated. "The buck stops with him..." she said.

Police contract

(continued from page 1)

"We worked it out," he said.

Currently the department has no officers with sergeant status.

The wording on the Temporary Part-Time Position section now sets the maximum number of part-time/temporary employees at three and maximum time of 3,400 hours per calendar year, up from 1,700 hours in the previous contract. Also the procedure is now spelled out how these employees can be used.

Also, if an officer decides not to take the health insurance offered by the city, the officer will get \$500 every month that the officer opts not to be covered, up from \$100 per month in the previous contract.

According to the last contract, the first month the city begins saving money as a result of the employee opting off the health care plan, the city shall pay the employee an additional \$100 as an incentive to participate in the program.

Cpl. Schrecengost was surprised to learn the extra \$100 was still in the new contract, since Belleville City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said that \$100 was coming out. The contract approved by the city council still has that wording in it.

Kollmeyer is on vacation and not available for comment on the contract.

The *Independent* obtained the language for the previous and present contracts through a Freedom of Information Act request.

There are other, smaller but important changes to the contract language.

When Cpl. Kris Faull's grandfather died, it was discovered there was a problem with the old contract in the Bereavement Leave section. While time off was given for a variety of other relatives, there was none for grandparents.

Schrecengost said Kollmeyer agreed it was an oversight and it was changed.

Other changes in the new contract include:

- The employer shall pay 80% of the premium for health care coverage and the employees pay 20%. This actually was



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Barbara Thomason, Sumpter Township's Wayne County Nutrition manager, hold a money order of funds donated to the county's Meals on Wheels program. During the recent Black History Month celebration, Sumpter Seniors held a raffle and the seniors share of the money was earmarked for Meals on Wheels. Ficano and Thomason received the funds at the March 14 Lunch With Bob event in Sumpter.

effective July 1, 2012, but it now has been added to the language on the new contract. Also added was that effective July 1, 2012, the retirees health care cost share will be the same as active employees.

- A new line added in said reserve employees need to adhere to all established rules and regulations.

- Deleted was the part in the old contract that offered reimbursement for part of the co-pays on 90-day prescriptions ordered by mail.

- The only change to the straight-time wage rates was the addition of a \$16 figure for part-time/temporary employees. The

other hourly rates remain at \$17.92 for patrol officers on probation, \$19.93 for 1-year patrol officers, \$21.71 for 2 years, \$23.44 for 3 years, \$25.11 for 4 years, and \$25.69 for corporal, 8 years. (In the former contract the top pay was recorded as \$25.68, but that was incorrect and was paid as \$25.69, Schrecengost said.)

The part of the former contract remains that requires as a condition of employment that those who are not members of the union need to pay a union service fee the same as the union dues. The city deducts the union dues or service fee and sends the money to the POAM office in Redford.

VBT approves design work to resurface township parking lot

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved paying Wade Trim engineers a lump sum of \$5,000 to do the design and bidding work for a proposed resurfacing of part of the township hall parking lot.

At its March 19 meeting, the board voted 6-1 to approve the agreement, with Trustee Reggie Miller voting no.

Trustee Miller questioned paying the engineers \$5,000 for design work for just Phase I of the parking lot paving, since there will be other phases before it's done and possibly \$5,000 each or more for each

future phase design.

Phase I will begin east of the main entrance at the handicapped parking and stretch around the front of the township hall to the public safety side and Quirk Road entrance.

DPW Director Tom MacDonald said this is the worst part of the parking lot and sees the most public visitors.

He said the plan is to grind up the existing base and add 2-3 inches of new pavement, addressing the curbs and sidewalks.

This would cost about \$100,000 and for the \$5,000 lump sum, Wade Trim would

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OPINIONS

Editorial

No secrets: Now you have all the 2012 salaries

We've completed our annual publication of the 2012 salaries of our friends who work at the City of Belleville, townships of Sumpter and Van Buren, and the Van Buren Public Schools.

These employees are paid with your tax dollars and so their salaries are available to you for study. You can decide if we are paying our workers enough – or too much.

Many of these salaries are locked into union contracts, so if you don't like them, too bad, there's nothing you can do about them under the current agreements.

If the school district decides to turn over its bus transportation department, for example, to a private company, as some school districts have, our local employees will either be without jobs, or will be able to apply for lower-paid, non-union jobs with the private firm. The school district still struggles with financial problems and will be reaching out for ways to cut expenditures.

Right now, the district is seeking salary cuts from the teachers, but at Monday's school board meeting no one said how much. They did say the teachers' union voted not to approve the proposed contract earlier Monday, so this is still in negotiation.

Sumpter cut its spending a long time ago and is getting along well. Belleville is tightening its belt. Van Buren Township seems to be doing all right, as long as the landfill stays healthy. Taxpayers need to stay informed, so there are no surprises.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

In a story published March 7, we reported that Arthur Mullen stated, "Our previous Development Director [Terry Carroll] is now with the Michigan Association of Planning, MAP."

I was happy to hear that Terry had a job since his wife is diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer and he needed health care. He was swept into unemployment by the new administration.

Turns out, when VBT Supervisor Linda Combs was on a tear against the *Independent* during the newspaper of record discussions last week, she stated that story was wrong and Mullen probably didn't even tell the *Independent*.

Well, he didn't. It turns out when we put Terry Carroll's name next to "previous Development Director" we were wrong. Terry is a member of MAP but he wasn't working there. He didn't have a job, after all, and that is very sad.

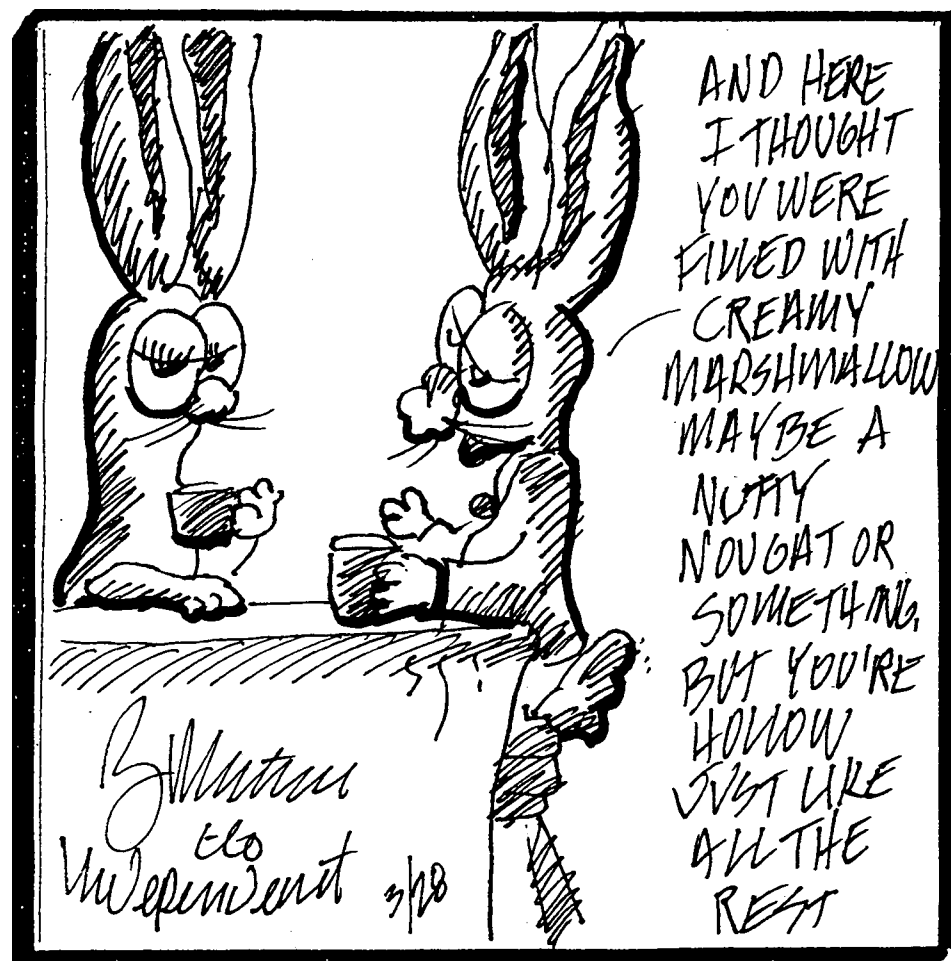
Mullen was referring instead to Amy Miller, who is from this area and is employed by MAP. I knew Amy when she was assistant to Bryce Kelley when he was director. She was very helpful. Also, she had served on the City of Belleville Planning Commission.

After careful study of the tapes of that Feb. 26 DDA meeting, Combs' assistant Karin LaMothe discovered Mullen actually said "Your previous development *person*, who worked in the Development office, is now with the Michigan Association of Planning..."

Thank you, Karin.

Mullen was referring to Amy as the "previous development person". He insists he doesn't know Terry and wouldn't have

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



said anything about him. Got it.

We apologize. Easy mistake to make, but we shouldn't have and there's no excuse but the excitement that Terry got a good job immediately. But, he didn't.

We received a call from Peggy who said she wanted to warn other seniors about a scam going around. She said she got a call from a man with a foreign accent who said, "We didn't get your application for your new medical card that will save you so much money. Didn't you get it in the mail? We sent it to you."

Peggy said the man asked where she banked and she told him PNC. He asked her to go get her account number – and Peggy hung up the phone.

She said she got caught on a scam once before and had to rush to the bank to cancel her account.

"Be vigilant and don't fall for this crap," she advises the seniors. "There is no new medical card to save you a lot of money."

On Friday, March 15, a lady parked her car on the railroad tracks in Ypsilanti's Depot Town intending to commit suicide. But, she got out of her car before the train hit it.

The next day, at about 5 p.m., she turned up at the police emergency call box inside the front entrance at Belleville City Hall asking for help. Belleville's new Officer Jonathon Heimstra responded and talked with her.

He called Huron Valley Ambulance and she was taken to get the help she needed.

That sale at Haggerty School on Saturday was a blast. There were a couple dozen people there when the doors opened at 10 a.m., but then hundreds showed up. It was quite a merry crowd, for the most part, with one participant saying it was nice to see so many people you haven't seen for a long time without having to attend a funeral.

The Community Chorus bought two, black, five-drawer filing cabinets (they looked like new) to keep their music in. They were just \$15 each. They told me Jim Higgerson lets them use space on the second floor of his funeral home to store music stuff.

I'm told a church group was glad to get some round tables that fold up in the center (\$10 each) plus a TV and a stand to use for their young people (\$25 total).

I saw a happy man rolling out a table-mounted sewing machine (\$15) and lots of ladies digging into the kitchen supplies at 4 for \$1. There were a lot of bread makers at \$10 and tons of other bargains.

It's nice to hear they are going to have another such sale in May, since there is a lot left from this sale and more stuff stored in the district warehouse.



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Letters

Thanks to all who helped with food drive

To the Editor:

A special thank you to the folks at Open Arms Lutheran Church for the recent third annual "Heat Wave" food drive they hosted during the first two weeks of March through the Van Buren Public Schools. Bev Conry and Pastor Jim Richter coordinated the food drive.

The schools collected food and paper products along with personal care items during the two weeks and then everything was picked up and delivered to the food closet at the First United Methodist Church. Another collection point was at the Van Buren September Days.

Picking up and delivering the items were Mike from Johnston Lithograph; Joe Richert, Wes Bane and Eric Moore from Open Arms Church; Cory Zeestraten and Jonas Freidrich, the intern from September Days Senior Center. Thank you to all.

The food was sorted and stored away at the food closet by Tara Cleveland, Donna Collins, Cory Zeestraten, Marilyn Woestman, Barb Boss, Ruth Ann Herkimer, Mary Jane McCrory, Alice and Dean Payne, Carol Shuryan, Ken Askew, Marilyn Wood, D'Aragan Fancher, and Girl Scouts from Troop #41185 under the leadership of Shelly Shores, Shianne Shores, Michael Shores II, Shelby Sanders, Debbie Szweda, Hannah Szweda and Renee Wisnieski. Thank you to all.

The Boy Scouts from Troop 231 from Trinity Episcopal Church conducted a Spring Food Drive on Saturday, March 9, delivering the collected food to the First United Methodist Church food closet that morning, sorting and storing it all in record time. This followed the food drive they held in late fall for the food closet.

Those participating were Tammy Wall, Ryan York, Daniel Karns, Landon Henderson, Sean Henderson, Theo Miller, Tim Miller, Zack Montgomery, Ryan Youmans, Chuck Youmans, Adam Kruger, Dan Fancher, Beth Fancher, D'Art Fancher and Grethen Fancher. Thank you to all.

The First United Methodist Church food closet is a 502-c(3) organization and has been in existence since 1983 serving the communities of Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township and the City of Belleville providing food to individuals and families who have documented and verifiable emergency need. It does not require attendance at religious services as condition of assistance, nor does it practice discrimination for any reason. We work closely with the Salvation Army, Community Care Services, several social agencies, the schools and other area churches. We depend on community support as we do not receive any government funding.

Sandy Askew
Food Closet

Bladez Salon gets 6 stars out of 5 on my list

To the Editor:

Contrary to popular belief, I do trim my long hair once in a Blue Moon, and when I do, I usually get someone I trust to do it for me.

Sawdust, twigs and auto petrols had made my substantial head of hair into a tattered mess long before I decided to find a new trimmer for the old mop -- and I finally found someone for the job.

SHE is Louise Fincher, who owns and operates BLADEZ Hair Salon on E. Huron River Dr., on the east side of Belleville, where the old Belleville Bakery was once upon a time, across the side street from Cocoa Beach Tanning Salon.

She is simply the best I have ever had to do the dreaded deed; I must notify all my friends in print that Bladez receives my highest recommendations.

They can handle every type of hair situation. While there I saw both men and women, younger and senior citizens, boys and girls, getting their hair problems handled at a reasonable price. Tho' it might be months or even years before I get another trim, Bladez gets six stars out of five on my list of recommended Belleville businesses.

So if you know me and respect my recommendations, give Bladez a try next time you're thinking of getting a cut, trim, perm, color or whatever -- give them a call at 734-697-5600 for an appointment, you'll be glad you did!

As ever, Jimmi Chapman
Van Buren Township

Chief Taylor thanks those who helped with American Pride Project

At the March 18 meeting of the Belleville City Council, Police Chief Gene Taylor thanked those who helped with last year's American Pride Project.


He thanked Steve Jones for the flyers, Kim Pelarske for salesmanship, Erin Cicero for procuring the flags, and the City of Belleville.

"The project was so successful we were able to donate \$972 to Paralyzed Veterans of America," Chief Taylor said.

The American Pride Project worked to put American flags up throughout the City of Belleville and surrounding area. There were 200 standard flags distributed and sold.

*"Learning is the only thing the mind never
exhausts, never fears, never regrets."*

--Leonardo Da Vinci



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More Letters

We are helping veterans with forms, paperwork

To the Editor:

Spring is in the air. The Burning Bush planted in 2002 by Ms. Marian Caldwell in memory of her husband James and the tree planted by Mrs. Edith Dance some ten years prior that produces both green and red leaves will soon be flourishing. We look forward and appreciate this each year.

We also appreciate the men and women who have served our country. We recognize sometimes it is difficult to follow through with forms and paperworks to implement some of their needs and benefits. As a result of this fact, we will have volunteers who can and will help with this process.

This service will begin on Thursday, April 4, and Friday, April 5, 2013 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 24101 Sumpter Road between Dunn and Wear roads. There will also be a cup of coffee for you.

Along with our spring plans, we have scheduled a Casino Trip to two casinos on the same day, April 27, 2013. Flyers are in the stores.

We now have a new answering machine as the old one wore out. Please call (734) 461-1767 for more information.

Crystal Harris, President
Sumpter Progressive Civic League



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Obituaries



Roberta A. Schrock

ROBERTA A. (CAMILLERI) SCHROCK

(May 24, 1933 – March 20, 2013)

Age 79, her life's journey on earth ended Wednesday, March 20, 2013 peacefully at her Ypsilanti home, surrounded by her loving family.

Roberta was born May 24, 1933 in Dearborn, the daughter of Anthony and Eva (Allor) Camilleri. Roberta was a lifelong resident of Ypsilanti. She was a member of the BPW and held the title of president several times. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Whittaker and was very involved with her church family by being a lecturer and Eucharistic minister, and participating in bible studies, church festivals, Ladies Knights of Columbus and Summer Scripture Days. She was a member of the MRCA and was a board member for many years. She was election inspector and chair for all the major elections since she could vote. She served on the Ypsilanti Zoning Board of Appeals. She also belonged to the fan club known as "The Club Members," a group of good friends that spent time playing cards, canoe trips and other fun activities.

Roberta loved to take care of people. She pioneered Adult Foster Care in the Washtenaw County area in the 1950s. She opened the first residential care facility with residents from the Ypsilanti State Hospital, all while raising her seven children. She also opened up the first residential facility for closed head injured clients in the Midwest in the 1980s. In 2000, she opened up a respite program for the elderly until 2013, when she had to close it due to her failing health.

After working with the elderly for so many years, she decided to go back to school in the 1980s at Madonna University (at that time it was a college) and earned her degree in Gerontology. Besides taking care of the elderly and the most challenging disabled clients, she also was an administrator for eight AFC Homes that she owned in Michigan and opened up the first dual

licensed facility in Florida for the emotionally/physically disabled geriatric clients.

She was an advocate for the geriatric, emotionally- and physically-disabled clients and she lobbied at the state and national levels for them. She was also appointed by the governor of Michigan to serve on the White House Conference on Aging. Roberta was also responsible for putting on the annual "Roberta's AFC Christmas Party," which was enjoyed by over 400 people for over 50 years.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Raymond Schrock; two sisters, Mary Lou Skinner of FL and Carol (Stan) Burek of CO; seven children, Linda (Bob) Campbell, Rayanthony, Debi (Herb) Diehr, Paula (Wayne) Bending, Joel (Mary Jayne), Jerome (Annette) and Erik; fifteen grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins in Malta.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her twin brother, Robert. The funeral mass was at 11 am Monday, March 25, 2013 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 9425 Whittaker Road, Whittaker. Cremation followed. Contributions in her memory may be made to Angela Hospice. Envelopes are available at Stark Funeral Service where the family greeted friends 2-4 & 6-9 pm Sunday with the rosary being prayed at 7 pm. There also was visitation at the church from 10 am until time of mass Monday. Please sign her guest book at www.starkfuneral.com.



Marjorie Ramsey

MARJORIE RAMSEY

Marjorie Ramsey, age 84, of Belleville died March 17, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Roy. Loving mother of Mark (Cindi) Ramsey, Paul Ramsey, Amy (Lynn) Niendorf, John (Mary Ann) Ramsey and Craig (Diane) Ramsey. Proud grandmother of eleven grandchildren. Funeral Mass on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 10:30 a.m., St. Patrick Catholic Church, 711 Rickett Road, Brighton, MI 48116. A celebration of Marjorie's life follows at the Forbidden Wheels Club House at 11546 Grand River, Brighton. Memorials to Michigan Humane Society.



Arlene Bush

ARLENE ELIZABETH BUSH

(June 4, 1923 - March 19, 2013)

Arlene Bush of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at the age of 89. Arlene was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Issac and Cornelia (Hamelink) Lakke. She is survived by two sons; Larry T. (Barbara) Bush, Geoffrey L. (Lori Day) Bush, four grandchildren; Zachary Bush, Nathan Bush, Sandra Wright, Steven Wright, and one great-grand child Cooper Bush.

Arlene was preceded in death by her husband Robert Bush in 2003.

Arlene worked as an executive secretary for the First United Methodist Church of Wyandotte (1952 to 1955) and Ford Motor Company (1955 to 1978). Upon retirement from Ford Motor Company, Arlene and her husband Bob became involved in OMS International in Greenwood, Indiana, where they established and ran the Audio/Visual Department for 10 years. OMS is a non-denominational, Christian Missionary service with mission fields in over 13 countries. During this time, they travelled extensively, visiting each of the mission fields on numerous occasions. Following her husband's death, she moved to Belleville, Michigan, where she became involved in the Belleville United Methodist Church. During her last years, she lived at the Sanctuary of St. Joseph Village in Ypsilanti and Clare Bridge of Ann Arbor.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday,

April 13, 2013 at 11:00 AM at the Belleville United Methodist Church with Pastor Jim Walker presiding.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent to the Belleville United Methodist Church to support their food closet program.

Please sign the on-line guestbook and share a memory for Arlene's family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Erica Rush

ERICA A. RUSH

(November 28, 1973 - March 21, 2013)

Erica A. Rush passed away on March 21, 2013. She was born on November 28, 1973 to Edward A. Rush and Sharon L. (Dopke) Rush, who both preceded her in death.

Erica was the beloved sister of Edward B. Rush, loving friend of Michelle Torres, and special "step-daughter" of Terry Snurka. She was also survived by many loving relatives and friends.

Erica is a 1991 graduate of Belleville High School and a 2000 graduate of U of M Medical School.

Donations in Erica's memory to the Salvation Army would be appreciated. A memorial service will be held at a Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville on Thursday, March 28, 2013 at noon. Online guests may leave condolences, share a photo, or light a memorial candle by visiting www.cranefuneralhome.net.

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Obituaries



David Green

DAVID MICHAEL GREEN

(May 25, 1956 – March 24, 2013)

David M. Green, age 56, of New Boston, passed away March 24, 2013.

Beloved husband of (The Honorable) Tina Brooks Green. Loving father of Timothy (Toni) Green, Sarah (Cory) Laubach, Joshua Green and Zachary Green. Guardian of Kendra Brooks and Pierce Brooks. Dearest grandfather of Blake, Meagan, Dylan, Noah and Bronson. He is also survived by his brother Doug (Jessica) Green, his sister Dianne (Bill) Thompson, many nieces, nephews, friends and family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Kathleen Green.

Dave was a police officer with the Wayne County Sheriff/ Detroit Metropolitan Airport for 28 years.

Visitation was Wednesday, 1-8 p.m. at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Funeral mass is Thursday, 11 AM, In-State 10:00 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church. Interment in Walnut (Waltz Road) Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Arbor Hospice or St. John's Church and school.

www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com



Warren Dean Branscomb

WARREN DEAN BRANSCOMB

(April 11, 1931 - March 22, 2013)

Warren Dean Branscomb, age 81, a 54-year resident of Van Buren Township, Michigan passed away on Friday, March 22, 2013 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Superior Township, Michigan.

He was born on April 11, 1931 in Norton, Kansas, son of the late Raymond E. and Frances E. (Guthrie) Branscomb.

Warren is survived by his second wife Xiyuan; also two sons Tom (Lindamarie) Branscomb of Utah and Timothy (Diane) Branscomb of Novi, MI; two stepsons Qi (Patty) Zhang of Dundas, Ontario, Canada and Max (Helen) Zhang of Lake Bluff, IL; six grandchildren Kristie, Jeremiah, Valarie, Cassidy, Chelsea and Skylar; two step-grandchildren Devin and Kevin; and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one sister Norma Robinett; three brothers, Max (Patsy) Branscomb, Don (Jackie) Branscomb, and Larry (Julie-Anne) Branscomb; and two brothers-in-law Frank Weiser and Ralph Brooks.

Warren was a retired Northwest Airlines pilot. He was a member of the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) as well as various other aviation-related organizations. His love for

aviation and desire as a young man to try a new kind of life profoundly influenced the Branscomb family through the decades. It continues to do so, as many have entered the profession. He and his wife, Xiyuan enjoyed traveling often, visiting friends and family. Warren was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, MI.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Myrna of 47 years, one son Paul Branscomb, a brother-in-law Jerry Robinett and two sisters, Lea Rae and Blanche.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice and would be appreciated by the family. Please sign the online guestbook for Warren and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Mildred Varton

MILDRED VARTON

(March 9, 1928 - March 22, 2013)

Mildred Louise Varton, age 85, of Sumpter Township, MI passed away Friday, March 22, 2013 at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital. She was born March 9, 1928 in Puncheon, KY, daughter of the late Jeff & Farry (Meade) Mullins.

Mildred is survived by her husband of 55 years Edward, a daughter Sally Randall, two sons Donald Chance and James Chance, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, her sister Bobbie Mullins, and her brother Richard Mullins.

She is preceded in death by four sisters, Magalene Johnson, Shirley Taylor, Gladys Capple, and Geraldine Susack; and two brothers Clifford Mullins and Clarence Mullins.

Mildred lived in Sumpter Township for 42 years. She enjoyed making ceramics, hiking, playing Pac-man, and gardening. Most of all she loved fishing with her family on Lake Erie. Some say her cast was better than Papa's.

Visitation will be Thursday, March 28, 2013, 4-8 p.m., and Friday, March 29, 2013, 10-11 a.m. with an 11 a.m. Funeral Service at the David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate. Burial will follow at the Union-Udell Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association and would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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VBT Board

(continued from page 3)

provide the project plan and specifications and go through the bidding process, evaluate the bids and give a recommendation. This does not include project oversight.

MacDonald said this is to be done during the hottest, driest part of the summer, maybe July, and the ground-up material could be used to fill in parts of the base that need repair.

Dave Nummer of Wade Trim said the ground-up pavement gravel makes a nice base for the new pavement. It's a pretty quick process and reduces the cost 30%, Nummer said.

MacDonald said the whole project is expected to be taken care of in two more phases, when money is available.

The whole parking lot project was estimated at about \$400,000, MacDonald said.

"It's an enormous price to do the parking lot in one piece," said Clerk Leon Wright. "We can't do it all at once and it's not going to get any better. We can't afford to jeopardize the safety of anyone."

MacDonald said they planned to leverage the money the township has available and do the highest priority first.

He said if it was done all in one season, it still would have to be phased to keep the township hall open.

MacDonald said if the board wants to design the entire project now, he could go back to Wade Trim and get a proposal on the whole project.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said they have to keep this in perspective. The board is not approving this paving to go forward, just the design work, which is 5% of the anticipated cost. He said once the design is done, the board will decide if it wants to go forward and seek bids.

Trustee Phil Hart asked MacDonald if he asked Nummer to take an overall look at the parking lot.

"What's being designed? Take out the old driveway and put in the new," said Trustee Hart, adding he was concerned there's no oversight. "Why can't Dave come up with one plan?"

"We have to get this done this year with the amount we had budgeted," MacDonald said. "I kind of defined what it would cost to design this area." MacDonald said Nummer basically responded to his request.

John Delaney stated from the audience that it would cost \$30,000 if there were six phases. He compared this to the Bemis Road water line 11 months ago that had to come back for more design costs.

"It's not my intention to say it is misspent," said Trustee Miller, clarifying her concerns.

MacDonald said the consultant responded to the request he made and the board can decide whether to accept the proposal or request a different proposal. He said Wade Trim is willing to do it either way.

Trustee Jahr said if the board spends \$20,000 on engineering and the work isn't going to be done for 3-4 years, that would take money away from the \$100,000 project now.

Supervisor Combs said she wants to get going on the part the township has money for and it's worse at the police department and drive onto Quirk Road.

The board then voted 6-1 to approve the \$5,000 proposal.

At the work/study session on March 18, John Delaney also questioned the entrance to township hall that is not lighted well.

"That's been a pet peeve of mine," agreed Supervisor Linda Combs. She said the Bianco Bus for senior trips took out the landscaping at the entrance twice since the bus is too big to make the turn.

Supervisor Combs said she has made a note for street lights and signage for the entrance.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said she and others went out and looked at it and found there is a light on each side of the entrance, but it needs higher wattage. She suggested lights along the drive and maybe reflective tape.

In other business at the one-hour, March 19 regular meeting, the board:

- Heard Supervisor Combs announce that Director MacDonald intends to retire in April. Combs said they wish him well in his retirement and they want him to know he is appreciated. MacDonald thanked the board for the confidence it has shown in him and he thanked the citizens of the township for their support. He said he has met a lot of great people during his time at VBT. He told the *Independent* that April 5 is his last day;

- Accepted the low bid for publishing legal notices, with Supervisor Combs and Treasurer Budd voting no. The *Independent*

bid \$2.50 per column inch, with other bids: \$4.25 from the *Journal/Eagle*, \$4.50 from *The View*, and \$5 from the *Belleville Lake Current*. There was an hour's worth of lively discussion about the decision at the work/study session, with Combs noting at that time she would vote against the *Independent* because she had compiled a whole list of complaints about the paper. The board agreed that they were not endorsing the low bidder but only agreeing to have their legal notices published in its pages. Delaney congratulated the board at the regular meeting for looking at the money and, that "After 24 hours, everybody calmed down"; and

- Unanimously approved the renewal of the 2013 Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Belleville for Emergency Dispatch and Lockup Services at a cost of \$145,600, the same price as last year. This is the eighth year providing the services to the city and Interim Director Greg Laurain said there have been incremental increases over the years. At the work/study session Budd said there have been increases of 6% and 5% and this is the first year the cost remained the same. Budd said the prior public safety director had already talked to the city and said it would cover it. Supervisor Combs said the former director gave the figure to her and said it would cover it before he left and she said she should have checked. She said they will do due diligence before the next contract comes up. "We don't want another year to go by without an increase," said Trustee Jahr.

(continued on page 12)

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Amanda Daley, owner of **Classy Canine Clips** has started a mobile grooming salon for dogs, beginning April 1. Daley, a 26-year resident of Van Buren Township, has

been working with dogs for 11 years and grooming them for 7 years. Her state-of-the-art grooming vehicle is one-of-a-kind. For price quotes or appointments, call (734) 776-4767. Or visit www.classycanineclips.com.

Kids Night Out, the Junior jazzercise program for children 5-11 will take place tomorrow evening, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the **Van Buren Township Recreation**

Center Gym on Tyler Road. The cost is \$20 per person and 10% discounts will be available for siblings. Call **Holly Haddell** at (734) 644-4656 for reservations.

The **Bunnies on Main**, a **Belleville Parks & Rec. and Belleville Area Council for the Arts** co-sponsored event, are on display in downtown Belleville, just in time for Easter and through April 1.

Today is the final day of the **Quilt Show** at the **Belleville Area Museum**. Over 140 quilts will be on display until 4 p.m.

Everyone's gearing up for bunny visits and egg hunts this weekend. At Belleville's Victory Park on Saturday, March 30, the free **Flop E Bunny Egg Hunt** for toddlers to 3

years gets underway at 12:15 p.m. Children 4-5 years age group will go next, followed by 6 - 7 years and 8 - 10 years. Get your photo taken with Flop E. for free. The event is sponsored by **Belleville Central Business Community**.

Open Arms Lutheran Church on Belleville Road will be holding a **Community Easter Egg Hunt** this Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is free and the public is invited.

Friday, March 29, is the final day to nominate someone for the **Belleville Chamber of Commerce's Leona Van Buhler Chamber Member of the Year**, the **Ted Kuckleman Community Service Award** and for **Business of the Year**. Visit the Chamber website for all the details and criteria on how to nominate. Visit www.Bellevilleareachamber.org or call (734) 697-7151.

Our color giveaway promotion here at the *Independent* continues through tomorrow, March 29. Simply advertise in color with us this month and get free color for all of April. We're also offering free color for an entire year if you sign up for a 52-week run, not to mention you'll also get 35% off the entire series. Call (734) 699-9020.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 19, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: None. Others in attendance: DPW Director MacDonald, Captain Laurain, Executive Assistant LaMothe, Secretary Cline and an audience of fourteen (14).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Jahr moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes March 4, 2013; Closed Session Minutes March 4, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 5, 2013; Voucher List of March 19, 2013.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: McClanahan moved, Miller seconded to approve the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Charter Township of Van Buren and the City of Belleville for Emergency Dispatch and Lockup Services. Carried.

Miller moved, McClanahan seconded to accept the lowest bid of \$2.50 per column inch to publish the Township's required legal notices. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Hart and Wright. Nays: Budd and Combs. Absent: None. Carried.

Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to accept the proposal from Wade-Trim for design and bidding for a Township Hall Parking Lot Project

in the lump sum of \$5,000. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: Miller. Absent: None. Carried. **REPORTS:** None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs announced Director MacDonald has given notice to the Township and will retire in April and thanked him for his service. Director MacDonald thanked the Board, staff and residents of the Township for the opportunity to work for the Township.

Trustee Miller announced Trinity Episcopal Church will host their annual Fish Fry, fund raiser for their Youth Group, on March 22nd from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information call 734-699-3361.

Trustee McClanahan announced Wayne County Community College Western Campus located at 9555 Haggerty Road will present "A Conversation on National Security and Counterterrorism in the 21st Century" featuring Dina Temple-Ratson on Thursday, March 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Treasurer Budd announced the Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Water and Sewer building located behind township hall. Residents may also pick up Park Passes and purchase a rain barrel. Director MacDonald stated the rain barrel sale is sponsored by the Alliance of Downriver Watershed and information regarding this event and to pre-order your rain barrel is posted on the Township's website www.vanburen-mi.org.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Wright seconded to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Published: March 28, 2013

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(9663)



*Ask
Angela*
By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela", c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Mary in Van Buren Township: I have an elderly mother who owns her home. My siblings and I were given legal advice to have my mother sign a quit claim to herself and all of her children, so in the event of her death, we would have ownership of the home.

We did have the quit claim deed prepared and had the document recorded at the county. My brother has decided to move in with my mother and has initiated my mother to sign for a mortgage on her home to finance an addition he wants to build to accommodate his family. Since all of my mom's children are now co-owners of the house, shouldn't all of us have to agree to sign for any mortgage / lien put on the house?

Answer: Yes! I would hope that the lender doing the mortgage would do a Title search and find out that your mother is not sole owner of the home. You and your siblings should have a talk with your brother and make it known that not only do you disagree with putting a lien on your mother's home, but that the bank should be informed of the several owners. Also, if need be, speak with an attorney as soon as possible to contact your brother and/or the bank to correct the situation.

--- Angela

Happy Easter to all my readers!
ANGELA NETTRO/Broker
Angela Nettro & Co.
(734)697-6655
Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Huron School District Kindergarten Round-Up For 2013-2014

Brown Elementary

Wednesday, April 10th

6-8 p.m.

734-782-2716

Miller Elementary

Thursday, April 11th

6-8 p.m.

734-753-4421

Court Watching**Tin Pan break-in case set for jury trial on April 10 in Detroit**

By Diane Madigan

Independent Court Reporter

At his March 20 conference, Charles Craig of Van Buren Township rejected a plea bargain agreement offered by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Chastity Ann Graham.

Craig's charges for the Dec. 29 burglary at the Tin Pan Saloon in Sumpter Township will proceed to a jury trial on April 10.

Craig, 21, was arrested on a 10-year felony charge of Breaking and Entering With Intent and an additional 4-year felony charge of Larceny from a Building.

Craig and his new attorney Jeffrey Knoche stood before Judge Edward Ewell, Jr. at the

Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

The offer from the prosecution was to dismiss the Larceny from a Building charge and lower the Breaking and Entering With Intent, in exchange for a guilty plea to a reduced charge of Attempted Breaking and Entering.

After Craig turned down the deal, Judge Ewell asked Craig's attorney if he had explained to Craig that he is more likely to get probation if he would accept the plea now rather than going to trial. Knoche indicated he had.

The prosecutor said the offer would only be on the table that day.

For the April 10 trial, the prosecution will call four witnesses and the defense will have two.

Birthdays

March 21 – Jerry Zywicki

March 25 – Paul Ostrowski, Erica Fulton

March 26 – Helen Zywicki

March 27 – Francis Bokor, Jr.

March 31 – Joe Banotai

Do you have a birthday in April? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

VBT Board*(continued from page 10)*

"Stay on top of this, Greg." Trustee Brenda McClanahan said, "We want to make sure we're not absorbing someone else's costs to the detriment of our department."

Closed-door session

After the VBT Board's work/study session on March 18, the board went into closed-door session to discuss a proposal from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), according to township attorney Ethan Vinson. He said the board and union recently finalized the new contract, but the union had another proposal to present.

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R & M HANDYMAN SERVICE. (734)
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at (734) 664-8657 3/28

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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FOR SALE

REMINGTON AMMO 30-06, Box of 20 Accelerator 55GR. \$45
(734) 699-5971 3/28

BANZAI Plunge inflatable water slide w/pool and 2 blowers. Paid \$450 new asking \$300. Dutch door, 36x80 never used or installed, \$200 obo
(734) 697-0091 4/04

27" Magnavox color TV, works great, \$25.
(734) 697-0091 4/04

GEO Tracks Train set w/ lots of trains, tracks & buildings, \$75. (6) Seat Koolz seat & bench. Great for soccer, used one season, \$65. (734) 697-0091 4/04

NET Gear Pro safe 8-port Gigabit VPN firewall, \$20. HP color deskjet 5650 inkjet printer, \$50. Both brand new. (2) Ninetenos DS, \$45 each.
(734) 697-0091 4/04

35 HAY ROUNDS, 2nd cut, last summer, \$70/round. 25 Squares with Alfalfa, \$13/square. 20 Corn rounds, \$35/round.
(734) 697-7975 mornings 4/04

4-POSTER QUEEN BED. Wood head & foot board with frame, \$50.
(734) 699-3885 4/11

VEHICLE FOR SALE

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed!
(734) 282-1700 TFN

1994 LINCOLN TOWN CAR, clean. \$1,200 obo (734) 218-4787 leave message. 3/28

2000 FORD CONTOUR. 128,000 miles. \$2,200. (517-605-2438 Dave. 1992 Crown Victoria, \$1,200 (734) 329-3397 Cheryl 4/11

PETS/LIVESTOCK

AKC GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies. Male, \$400. Female, \$500. Both parents on site. (734) 740-6300 3/28

EASTER BUNNIES - Prices range from \$8 each to \$12 each. Call Mary (734) 697-4835 4/04

WANTED

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED

WE BUY JUNK CARS
7 Days A Week For \$300 & Up!
Cash Paid!
(734) 787-1444

WANTED: JUNK CARS
Running or Not. Top \$ Paid. Call For Free Pickup. Drive In For Extra Dollars.
734-282-1700

PRIVATE COLLECTOR

Pays Cash For Sports Cards And Comic Books. I Prefer Items 1975 & Older, But Will Consider Anything. Mike 697-3546 Eves.

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - CASH for old Guitars or parts. Any condition. Also repair services available. (734) 697-1128 Ray 4/18

WANTED - MANUFACTURED HOME for storage. (734) 262-5008 4/04

ACT FAST - FAST CASH for Junk Cars. Pick up 7 days a week. Call Gene & Son Towing. (734) 502-4017 or (734) 686-1250 4/18

FREE

JIM POSEGAY RYMUT DR. YOU'VE Won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com TFN

(4) CATS approx. 2 yrs old. 2 Blk & Wht 1 Grey, 1 Blk. All healthy. (734) 635-2567 or (734) 219-2150 3/28

AUCTION

2013 SPRING CONSIGNMENT. April 6th @ 9:00 a.m. 48651 Harris Rd. (734) 262-5008 Construction, Farm & Lawn equipment, Building materials, Hardware, etc. Not accepting Household items. 4/04

FOR RENT

SMALL 1 BR. APARTMENT ON Main St. All utilities plus cable. \$600/mo. Plus security and 1st & last months rent. (734) 788-1719 4/04

LAKESHORE APT. IN Ypsilanti. 2 BR., 2 Bath, Fireplace, Beautiful view. \$800 moves you in, \$740/mo. Call Diane (734) 218-3779 3/28

ONE BR. APT. Stove & Refrigerator. Mature person, Good Credit, No Pets. \$400/mo. Plus Security deposit. (734) 697-8984 3/28

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

RAWSONVILLE WOODS

Bankruptcy, Foreclosures and bad credit ok.
Handyman Homes starting at \$1.
Rental homes available
Ask about our specials
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HELP WANTED

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

NEED PART-TIME BARTENDERS. Days/Nights Available. Call Chuck Eaton for interview and application. (734) 699-8836 3/28

DRIVERS: Dedicated, Home Daily! CDL-A 1 yr. OTR. Good Background. Apply: 320 Matzinger Rd., Toledo. or Online: www.mtstrans.com 3/28

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HELP WANTED

Atchinson Ford is looking for several hard working people for its new detail shop. Experience with light mechanical or detailing helpful. Good driving record a must. Contact Eric Carter (734) 697-9161

LANDSCAPING & GROUNDSKEEPING WORKERS wanted for Randy Brown Landscaping, Inc. 7 temporary positions open from 15-Apr-13 through 15-Dec-13. Job involves: Landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks, which may include any combination of the following: sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, sprinkler installation, and installation of mortarless segmental concrete masonry wall units. Post-employment random drug testing and background checks may be required. Typical work schedule 40 Hrs/Wk Mon-Fri, 8:00AM to 5:00PM. No training or experience is required. No overtime expected. Employer will pay the applicable prevailing hourly wage \$8.41 / \$12.62 OT for Belleville, Wayne County, MI. Merit increases and/or bonuses may be awarded at employer discretion. EOE.

Send resume to Randy Brown Landscaping, Inc., 7580 Belleville Rd, Belleville, MI 48111 or fax to 734-697-3209. Please include complete contact information in your submission. 03-28-13

Corrections

In last week's *Independent* on page 3, Gary Rogalski was quoted in the discussion on outdoor furnaces and how they are restricted in the new Sumpter Township zoning ordinance.

He said it should have said it costs him \$1,000 a month to heat with propane and less than \$1,000 a year to heat with the outdoor furnace.

Also, he said he didn't boast that he is the No. 1 salesman in this area for outdoor furnaces, but that he sells furnaces made by the No. 1 manufacturer in the country, Central Boilers.

He also wanted to point out that he made the "It's hard to sue your neighbors" statement after he was advised he could go to court if neighbors wouldn't honor their responsibility to maintain their private drive. The agreement should be recorded on their deeds, he was told.
Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor

"The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them."

— Patrick Henry

THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!
(Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)



"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots."

— Albert Einstein

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.

Sunday, March 17:

0117 – liquor violation, 50778 Michigan Ave., Hot Spot
0208 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Hannan Rd.
0327 – assault & battery, 48975 Laguna Dr.
0347 – assault & battery, 46111 Village Green Ln.
0829 – private property accident, 287 Industrial
1020 – hospice, 113 Maple Dr.
1133 – harassment call, 650 Sumpter Rd.
1218 – trespassing, Jeremy
1828 – assault & battery, 81 Park Estates
2006 – hospice, 6515 Haggerty Rd.
2225 – fight, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek
2320 – fight, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek

Monday, March 18:

0302 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.
1046 – assault & battery, 11793 Meadows Cir.
1231 – private property accident, 45455 Ecorse
1441 – fight, Westlake
1649 – private property accident, 5910 Belleville
1720 – larceny, 11793 Meadows Cir.
1818 – malicious destruction of property, 9059 Parkwood Dr.
1829 – private property accident, 11742 Belleville
1854 – intimidation threat, 10166 Wheeler St.
2022 – malicious destruction of property, 8865 Parkwood Dr.
2107 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
2149 – noise complaint, 9985 Jackson Ln.
2320 – noise complaint, 48440 Denton Rd.
2321 – mental, 14102 Westlake

Tuesday, March 19:

0840 – property damage accident, 42975 Savage
0840 – personal injury accident, Savage School
1033 – fraud, 48621 Denton Rd.
1436 – juvenile complaint, North Middle School
1524 – fraud, Meijer
1638 – fraud, 44205 Ecorse Rd.
1639 – juvenile complaint, 17201 Elwell Rd.
1704 – narcotics crime, 48751 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1729 – harassment call, 8200 Haggerty Rd.
2221 – larceny from auto, 41455 S. Bellridge Dr.

Wednesday, March 20:

0328 – malicious destruction of property, 11175 Haggerty
0814 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94 Service Dr.
1033 – holdup alarm, 43631 Forestdale Dr.
1045 – hospice, 5888 Winchester St.
1438 – larceny, Walmart
1543 – intimidation threat, 6618 Maurice Dr.
1742 – juvenile complaint, 104 Richards Run
1821 – fraud, 10652 Belleville
1926 – fraud, Meijer
2014 – assault & battery, 10989 Jackson Ct.
2020 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
2145 – suspicious situation, Walmart
2206 – fraud, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart

Thursday, March 21:

0832 – malicious destruction of property, 48721 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1031 – breaking & entering, 15695 Haggerty Rd.
1156 – larceny from auto, 6607 Parkside Dr.
1202 – assault & battery, 6468 E. Sadie Ln.
1250 – dumping complaint, Morton Taylor/Ecorse
1335 – noise complaint, Hannan/Wabash
1409 – larceny from auto, 48880 Denton Rd.
1612 – fraud, 10638 Oak Lane
1642 – fraud, 43574 Revere Dr.
1723 – dumping complaint, 7934 Belleville Rd.
1724 – personal injury accident, SB I-275/Ecorse
1736 – fraud, Meijer
2018 – assault & battery, 41480 W. Archwood Dr.
2031 – assault & battery, 41482 E. Archwood
2206 – assault & battery, 41412 McKinley St.
2256 – shots fired, 8956 Hardwood Dr.

Friday, March 22:

0812 – hospice, 43243 Pond Bluff Dr.
0917 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1047 – trespassing, 6820 Belleville Rd.
1210 – PPO violation, 9242 Parkwood

1253 – missing person, 45107 Jeannette Ave.
1350 – assault & battery, 43981 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1440 – private property accident, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1625 – fraud, 51181 Assembly St.
1726 – fight, 41472 E. Archwood Dr.
1837 – juvenile complaint, 8492 Hannan Rd.
2007 – noise complaint, 9985 Jackson Ln.
2154 – disturbance, 11748 Belleville Rd.

Saturday, March 23:

0016 – noise complaint, 43766 S. Timberview Dr.
1037 – harassment call, 256 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1055 – assault & battery, 6039 Victoria St.
1332 – fraud, 15766 Martinsville Rd.
1334 – agency assist, 265 Sumpter Rd.
1344 – PPO violation, 13367 Linda Vista Ct.
1429 – harassment call, 185 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1523 – malicious destruction of property, 48601 Denton Rd.

1814 – intimidation threat, 48621 Denton Rd.
1906 – assault & battery, 8942 Parkwood Dr.
1943 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Meijer
2019 – harassment call, 7619 Kirkridge Park Dr.
2223 – noise complaint, 9985 Jackson Ln.
2344 – disturbance, 46131 Village Green Ln.
2355 – larceny from auto, 41450 Archwood Dr.

Also on this week's log are 278 traffic stops, 106 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 17:

0256 – intimidation threat, 27 San Carlos St.
0417 – suspicious vehicle, 506 Harbour Pointe Dr.
0720 – intrusion alarm, 405 Main St.
1016 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 59 Wexford Ave.

1635 – harassment call, 6 Main St.

2058 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 275 W.

Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

Monday, March 18:

0416 – assist fire dept., 476 E. Waterbury Ct.
1035 – larceny, 209 Main St.
1145 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.
1515 – juvenile complaint, 125 S. Edgemont Ave.
1659 – assist fire dept., 279 Church St.
1821 – assist fire dept., 241 Henry St.
1917 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 53 N. Edgemont Ave.

Tuesday, March 19:

0222 – noise complaint, 308 Edison Ave.
0723 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-Op
0916 – parking complaint, 38 Fifth St.
1013 – prisoner transfer, 11131 S. Wayne Rd.
1109 – juvenile complaint, 201 Henry St.
1129 – lost property, 501 W. Columbia Ave., BHS
1257 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
1340 – suspicious person, 811 Estrada
1606 – prisoner transfer, 11131 S. Wayne Rd.

Wednesday, March 20:

0721 – intrusion alarm, 405 Main St.
1223 – miscellaneous complaint, 583 E. Thornhill
1356 – harassment call, 6 Main
1542 – assist fire dept., 90 Menlo Park Dr.
1714 – juvenile complaint, 184 Dos Rios St.
2107 – assist fire dept., 462 W. Waterbury Ct.
2228 – suspicious person, 50 Main St.
2249 – suspicious person, W. Columbia Ave. / South St.

Thursday, March 21:

0138 – suspicious vehicle, 200 Henry St.
1108 – domestic assault, 181 Church St.
1355 – assist fire dept., 125 W. Columbia Ave.
1511 – all other traffic, Main/High
1740 – agency assist, 401 Estrada
1749 – traffic complaint, 140 Carmell St.
2143 – vehicle lockout, 243 Main St.
2212 – agency assist, EB I-94/Camping World

Friday, March 22:

0358 – noise complaint, 200 Belle Villa Blvd.
0811 – larceny from auto, 453 Light Tower Ct.
0914 – private property accident, BHS
1134 – assist fire dept., 795 Sumpter Rd.
1150 – welfare check, 22 Santa Clara St.
1154 – assist citizen, 6 Main St.
1441 – larceny, BHS
1446 – intrusion alarm, 420 Sumpter Rd.
1458 – warrant arrest, BHS
2039 – assist fire dept., 137 Carmell St.
2128 – intrusion alarm, 300 Sumpter

2137 – suspicious vehicle, 429 Victorian Ln.

2208 – suspicious vehicle, BHS

Saturday, March 23:

0114 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 401 Estrada
0740 – noise complaint, 500 N. Liberty St.
1031 – assist fire dept., 593 E. Thornhill Ct.
1059 – intrusion alarm, 123 S. Edgemont Ave.
1211 – E-911 cellular, 275 W. Columbia Ave.
1220 – assist fire dept., 735 Light Tower Ct.
1236 – retail fraud, 265 Sumpter
1634 – miscellaneous complaint, 129 Carmell st.
2132 – follow-up, 265 Sumpter

Also on this week's log were 118 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 17:

0035 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville/Oakville Waltz
0506 – follow-up investigation, 36000 bl. S. Huron
0909 – warrant arrest, Carriage Lane
1042 – fire dept. assist, 5700 bl. Oakville Waltz
1511 – alarm, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1624 – shots fired, Savage/Harris
1706 – warrant arrest, Harris/Haggerty
1822 – suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
1944 – suspicious person, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Monday, March 18:

0059 – suspicious person, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
0911 – juvenile complaint, Greenmeadow
0944 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1012 – threats complaint, 28000 bl. Sumpter
1054 – property damage accident, 47000 bl. Bemis
1108 – accidental damage report, 18000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

1157 – subpoena service, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1252 – alarm, 24000 bl. Martinsville
1320 – juvenile complaint, Pecan
1609 – fraud report, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1750 – assist other agency, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.
1906 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty
1921 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Victoria Ave.
1938 – subpoena service, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1952 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis
2024 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Victoria Ave.

Tuesday, March 19:

0114 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter
0537 – assist other agency, 49000 bl. Judd Rd.
0909 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
0948 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Fenster
1005 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1406 – alarm, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1500 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1655 – alarm, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1726 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1751 – animal complaint, 29000 bl. Martinsville
1802 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2048 – citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2125 – mental health commitment, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

Wednesday, March 20:

0852 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
0854 – threats complaint, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0915 – follow-up investigation, 25000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1217 – family trouble, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1331 – fire dept. assist, Redwood
1510 – threats complaint, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1758 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2025 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willis / Rawsonville

Thursday, March 21:

0129 – disorderly person, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1010 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1923 – subpoena service, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1027 – subpoena service, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1233 – fire dept. assist, Arizona
1255 – assist other agency, Sumpter/Bemis
1336 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1719 – assist other agency, Rustic Ln.
1815 – warrant arrest, 25000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1825 – follow up investigation, 40000 bl. Harris
2204 – suspicious vehicle, 40000 bl. Arkona Rd.

Friday, March 22:

0940 – fire dept. assist, Washington
1448 – well-being check, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1625 – 133120, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1946 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood

Saturday, March 23:

0008 – assist other agency, Carriage Ln.
0443 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1049 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1435 – suspicious vehicle, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
1521 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1643 – shots fired, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1935 – off road vehicle complaint, 44000 bl. Harris
2248 – noise complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

Also on this week's log are 33 miscellaneous details, 106 patrol checks, and 88 traffic stops.

Expedition now answers VBT calls for emergency medical service

With a focus on enhancing services and efficiencies, the Van Buren Township Fire Department has recently implemented a “smaller” response to calls for emergency medical service.

In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 2,549 calls for service with 1,556 of them (61%) being requests for medical care.

Traditionally, the big, red, front-line engines had been used to respond to all emergency calls. These engines, known as Engines 1 & 2, were purchased in 2004 at a cost of about \$400,000.

They average about 3.5 miles per gallon, and repairs are costly. It averages \$400 for an oil change and \$800 to replace one tire.

The department's front-line fire engines both have over 100,000 miles on them, and generally repairing or servicing a fire engine is not a quick fix.

Fire Department personnel are committed to extending the life of these big red engines, as well as to combating the rising costs associated with fuel, maintenance and repairs.

To do so, the Fire Department is now responding to calls for emergency medical service using its 2008 Ford Expedition Sport Utility Vehicle. The Expedition averages over triple the miles per gallon of the big red engines, oil changes average \$40, tire replacement is \$200, and maintenance and repairs are nominal in comparison.

In an effort to further reduce the wear and tear on the fire engines, the Fire Department expanded the first response area for the SUV to include areas north of Belleville Lake. The medical equipment carried in the Expedition meets and exceeds both local and state licensing requirements, guaranteeing medical care will be administered as it was when the fire engines were used for response.

No additional costs are associated with this new service delivery, as the Expedition was already in the fleet as the Fire Chief's vehicle. The Fire Chief will be assigned another vehicle being decommissioned from the Police Department.

Fire Chief Dan Besson said he is pleased with the newly implemented process.

“Using this smaller vehicle maintains the same high quality level of service our residents expect, while we conservatively preserve our front line engines for years to come,” Chief Besson said.

“I am eager to assess the success of this program, and we will continue to look for innovative ways to enhance the effectiveness and efficiencies of the services we provide.”

-- By Karin LaMothe
Van Buren Township

VBT OKs attorney's recommendation on Fire Chief Loyer's law suit

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Following more than an hour of discussion in closed-door session on Monday afternoon, the Van Buren Township Board

of Trustees came back into open session and voted 3-2 to approve its attorney's recommendation concerning the lawsuit filed by VBT's former fire chief.

The case pending in Circuit Court is #12-01279-CD brought by former Fire Chief Darwin Loyer. The township attorney's recommendation in the case was not announced.

Trustee Phil Hart was absent and excused from Monday's meeting and the board voted to allow Trustee Brenda McClanahan to recuse herself because of her relationship to a party in the law suit.

In his Whistleblower's law suit, Loyer named the township, former Supervisor Paul White, and former Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan, Trustee

McClanahan's husband.

Clerk Leon Wright made the motion to accept the attorney's recommendation, which was seconded by Treasurer Sharry Budd.

Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, and Supervisor Linda Combs voted yes and Trustees Jeff Jahr and Reggie Miller voted no. The motion carried 3-2.

Trustee Jahr asked Supervisor Combs to ask their attorney when they can talk about the case and she said she would.

Combs told the *Independent* that the case has to go through the court system and their attorney has to carry the proposal to the other attorney and decisions have to be made. She said she would issue a statement once everything is settled.

In his lawsuit, Loyer alleges that Supervisor White discharged him because of Loyer's complaints of illegalities, violations of law and safety regulations.

Loyer left township employment on June 21 and Dan Besson took over the job as interim fire chief. Besson was sworn in as permanent fire chief on Aug. 21.

Reportedly, Loyer was offered a settlement for leaving township employment if he would sign a promise not to sue the township. He did not sign.

The law suit was filed Sept. 17 by Loyer's attorney Joseph R. Furton, Jr. of Dearborn. Loyer also paid the \$235 fee necessary to demand a jury trial.

On Feb. 1, Loyer's attorney filed a motion to extend the time line in the suit which was granted. Now, case evaluation is set for July 29 and settlement conference for Sept. 9.

Pet of the Week

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Animals Rescue

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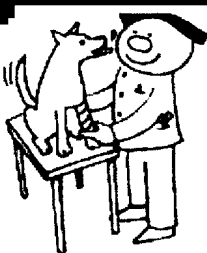
Easter Brunch
March 31, 2013 served 10 am until 2 pm.

French Toast Bake Eggs Benedict Omelets made to order Waffles	Corned Beef Hash Crispy Bacon & Sausage Links Hash Browns Grits
Tossed Salad	Potato Salad
Spiral Sliced Ham with Pineapple Glaze Prime Rib Au Jus Roast Turkey with Cornbread Stuffing	
Fresh Garden Vegetable Blend Basmati Rice Pilaf	
Assorted Desserts Fresh Fruit	
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Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, March 28 – Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee, 11 a.m.
- Monday, April 1 -- Van Buren Township work-study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 2 -- Van Buren Township board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 3 – Van Buren Township Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.



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Rabies 3 yr.	\$16

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Cats

RCP and Leukemia	\$29
Rabies 1 yr.	\$14
Rabies 3 yr.	\$16
Heartworm Test	\$25

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Extended Exams (ear. skin, etc.)	\$18
Pocket Pet Exam	\$18
Anal Glands	\$12
Micro Chip	\$30
Fecal Check	\$10
Toe nail trim	\$5

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Upcoming Clinics:

WILLIS FEED MILL, 10200 Railroad St., **WILLIS**, Mon., April 8th, 5-6 p.m.

PET SPA, 5260 Willis Rd., **YPSILANTI**, Sun., April 14th, 4:30-6 p.m.

PET SPA 2, 970 Sumpter Rd., **BELLEVILLE**, Sun., April 21st, 4-6 p.m.

PET RESORT, 50425 Bemis Rd., **BELLEVILLE**, Sun., April 28th, 3-6 p.m.

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**Easter Brunch**

**Sunday
March 31
11:00am - 3:00pm**

**Adults
\$9.99**

**Children
under 10
\$4.99**

Menu:

Made to order Omelets,
Waffles, Biscuits,
Sausage Gravy, Ham,
Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
Corn, Catfish, Fried Chicken,
Salad Bar, Fruit Tray
Reservations recommended



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